memorandum

JUL 1 - 1981

REPLY TO ASSISTANT Area Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Expansion of DOE Mining Lease NM-B-1

то: Superintendent, Eastern Navajo Agency

Follow-up is hereby submitted for the above subject matter. To date, we have not received a reply from your office regarding the proposal. A copy of memorandum dated December 3, 1979 (with attachments) is enclosed for your review. Your attention to this matter will expedite finalization of the proposal.

Questions may be directed to Calvin Quimayousie, Area Property Management Officer at (505) 863-9501, extension 241.

Streepel & Brunn

Attachments





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Area Office P. O. Box 1060 Gallup, New Mexico 87301

IN REPLY REFER TO: Branch of Property and Supply

DEC 13 1979

Memorandum

To:

Assistant Area Director, Resources Management

Attn: Area Realty Officer

Superintendent, Eastern Navajo Agency

From:

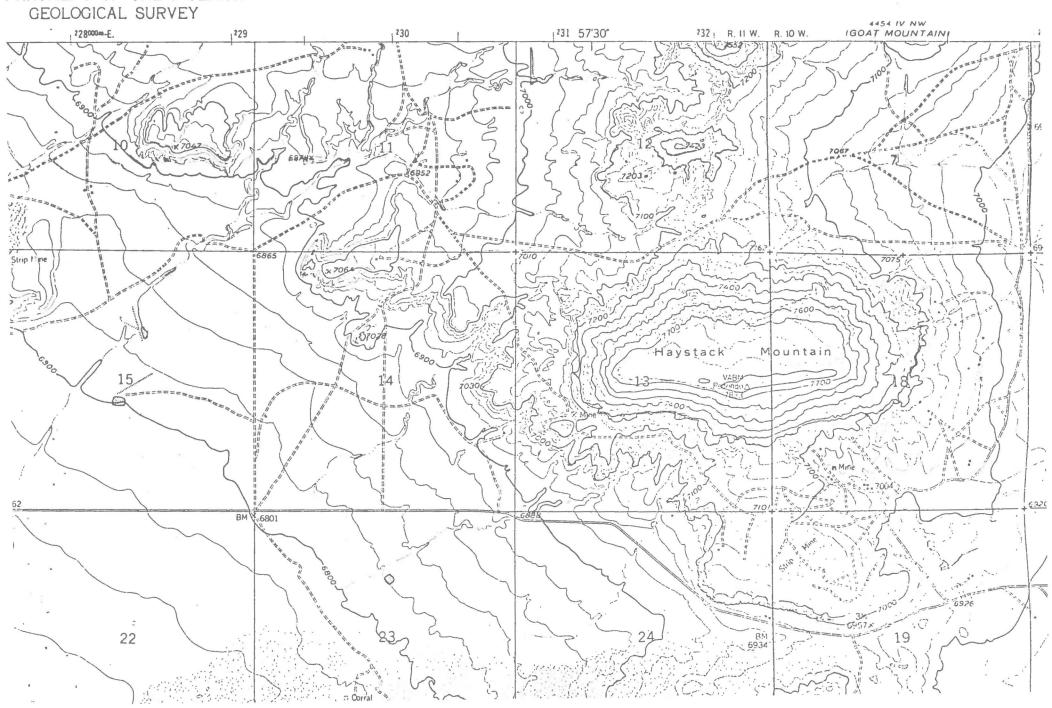
Acting Kisl Area Director

Subject: DOE Mining Lease NM-B-1

Attached is copy of letter received from the Department of Energy regarding proposed expansion of mining lease NM-B-1 with George Warnock, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Please provide your comments and recommendations regarding the proposed expansion to the Area Branch of Property and Supply by December 31, 1979.

Attachments

UNITED STATES
PARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



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to be	rawn area excluded lease ing	,	,		2198	059419		
Unit NM-B-I								

Unit NM-B-1
Haystack Butte Area
McKinley County, New Mexico



Department of Energy P. O. Box 2567 Grand Junction, CO 81501

November 15, 1979

Mr. Donald Dodge, Area Director U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs P. O. Box 1060 Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Subject: DOE Mining Lease NM-B-1

Dear Mr. Dodge:

You are probably aware that in 1974 this office, then part of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), awarded a mining lease, on the basis of competitive bids, to George Warnock, Albuquerque, New Mexico for the exploration for and mining of uranium located in Section 13, T 13 N, R 11 W, McKinley County, New Mexico (shown on the attached map). The Atomic Energy Commission acquired control of the mineral rights on this tract, and the lands shown in Sections 3 and 11, pursuant to Public Land Order No. 964. The surface is controlled by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) pursuant to Public Land Order 2198. BIA granted AEC a use permit (Contract No. NOO-C-1420-6386) for the period beginning June 12, 1974, to the termination of the lease.

The lessee commenced exploration in 1974 and mining in 1975 in accordance with AEC approved exploration and mining plans. Production initially was from surface or open pit mining and more recently from underground mining. To date approximately 120,000 tons of uranium ore have been produced and delivered to the United Nuclear-Homestake Partners mill at Grants. Reclamation of the open pits has proceeded in accordance with approved plans and will be completed in a short time.

In the early 1970's, when consideration was being given to leasing AEC withdrawn lands, it was determined that the lands in Sections 3 and 11 would be excluded from the lease offering. The reasoning at that time was that there was little or no indication of uranium mineralization in those sections and there was some concern that mining might disturb the few people residing on or near Section 11. An additional concern was the possibility of prehistoric Indian mounds in Sections 3 and 11.

Recently the lessee, Mr. Warnock, has asked us to consider enlarging his lease to include Section II because of the possible extension of uranium mineralization into that section from the NW4 of Section 13. Were we to grant his request it would be his responsibility to obtain required exploration and mining permits, archeological clearances, etc. We are favorably inclined to grant the lessee's request because of his demonstrated capability to explore, develop and mine the rather lowgrade limestone deposits that other lessees might have abandoned as uneconomic. Whether any ore would be found in either Section II or 3 is conjecture at this stage but if ore does occur, it would be mineable only by underground operations which would minimize surface disturbance. Possibly ore located in Section II could be mined from openings on Section 13.

Our purpose in contacting you is to solicit your advice and recommendations regarding Mr. Warnock's request. Do you believe that BIA and the Navajo Nation would permit exploration in Sections 3 and 11 and, if uranium ore is discovered, would the lessee be permitted to mine?

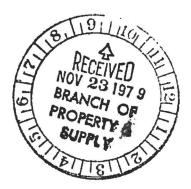
We need to make a decision within the next few months because the ore reserves in Section 13 are being rapidly depleted. If it would help, especially if more information is needed, I would be pleased to have members of my staff meet with you whenever convenient to discuss this matter further.

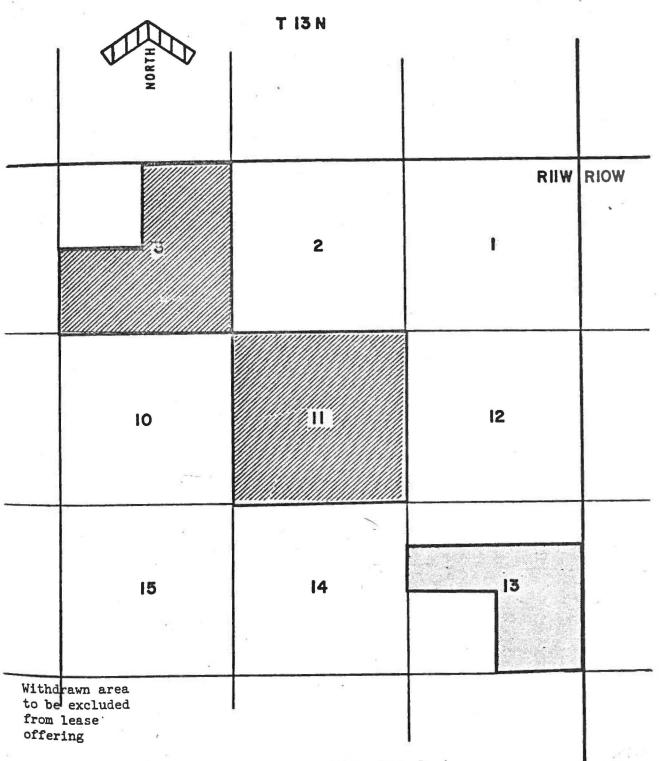
Sincerely,

Donald L. Everhart Manager

Attachment: As noted

cc: John Azua, w/att. — George Warnock, w/att.





Unit NM-B-I
Haystack Butte Area
McKInley County, New Mexico

PERMITTEE: Annie V. Mustache, C#6827	. 10 *					
TYPE PERMIT: Use Permit	Folder No: 338 DOC. NO. NOQ-C-1420-7161					
LAND DESCRIP .: One acre tract of land within the SE/4 of section 13, Township 13						
North, Range 11, West, N.M.P.M.	NO. ACRES: 1					
PURPOSE: Temporary use of land for Homesite.						
PERMITTEE: Lucy Kee, C#87089						
TYPE PERMIT: Use Permit	DOC. NO. NOO-C-1420-7162					
LAND DESCRIP.: One acre tract of land within the SE/4 of section 13, Township 13						
North, Range 11 West, N.M.P.M.	NO. ACRES: 1					
PURPOSE: Temporary use of land for Homesite.						
PERMITTEE: Department of Health, Education & Welfa	are					
TYPE PERMIT: Right of Way	DOC. NO.					
LAND DESCRIP .: Public Order 2198 Lands, Township 14 North, Range 18 West. Section 9						
N ¹ ₂ , and Township 13 North, Range 11 West, section ¶NO. ACRES:						
PURPOSE: Permission to survey and construct water	lines.					
PERMITTEE: George & Beth Nez						
TYPE PERMIT: Use Permit	DOC. NONOOC 1420 6864					
LAND DESCRIP .: SE/4 of Section 11, Township 13 No	rth, Range 11 West N.M.P.M.					
McKinley County, New Mexico	NO. ACRES: 1					
PURPOSE: Temporary homesite						
PERMITTEE:						
TYPE PERMIT:						
LAND DESCRIP.:	•					
	NO. ACRES:					
PURPOSE:						
PERMITTEE:						
TYPE PERMIT:						
LAND DESCRIP.:						

NO. ACRES:

SECTIONS:						
		Sec.3,1ots1and2,S½NE; andS½; Sec.11; Sec.13,S½NE¼,S½NW¼and SE¼.				
GOV'T	8910-	12-				
OWNED		-1416				
	-30 - 29 - 28 - 27 - 31 - 32 - 33 - 34 -	25 - 25 - 36 - 36 - 36 - 36 - 36 - 36 - 36 - 3				
HOW ACQUIRED:	Public Land Order 2198					
AUTHORIZED USER						
PERMITTEE: Unit	ted States Atomic Energy Comm					
TYPE PERMIT:	Jse Permit	Folder No: 271 DOC. NO. <u>NOO-C-1420-6386</u>				
LAND DESCRIP.:	SE_{4}^{1} and the S_{2}^{1} of NM-B-1 of	section 13, Township 13 North,				
Range 11 West N	.M.P.M.	NO. ACRES:				
PURPOSE: Tempo	orary use and occupancy.					
PERMITTEE: Robe	rtson & Lorraine E. James, Pr	ewitt, New Mexico				
TYPE PERMIT: U	Folder No: 305 DOC. NO. NOO-C-1420-5914					
		the NE/4 of section 11, Township 13				
= 0	West, N.M.P.M.					
	rary use of land for Homesite					
PERMITTEE: Joe Vandever C#6839 & Bessie D. Vandever, C#86396 Folder No: 306						
TYPE PERMIT: Us		DOC. NO. NOO-C-1420-6923				
LAND DESCRIP.:	One acre tract of land within	the SE/4 of section 11, Towship				
13 North, Range	11 West, N.M.P.M.	NO. ACRES:1				

PURPOSE: Temporary use of land for Homesite.